

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An authorization system for license certificate management, the authorization system comprising:

a plurality of license certificates corresponding to a plurality of software products which require corresponding ones of the license certificates to enable operation thereof;

a license certificate creation or modification tool operable to create or modify license certificates;

an authorization tool that sets criteria for the creation or modification of license certificates;

a first list of personnel authorized to use the authorization tool;

a granted authorization table (GAT) created by the authorization tool which identifies the criteria; and

a controller that enforces compliance in the creation of new or modified license certificates with the criteria in the granted authorization table.

2. The system of claim 1, including a second list specifying individuals having access to the license certificate creation or modification tool and the first list is different from the second list.

3. The system of claim 1, in which the criteria includes identities of software users.

4. The system of claim 2, in which the individuals in the second list are system programmers.

5. The system of claim 4, including a license manager, and the license creation tool is a component of the license manager.

6. The system of claim 5, further including a license administration tool which is a component part of the license manager and which effectuates the modification of certificates.

7. The system of claim 1, further including a controlled product table which identifies products or classes of licensed software requiring authorization in order to create or modify license certificates thereof.

8. The system of claim 1, in which the controller is configured as an authorization enforcer tool that receives control when a new certificate is added or an existing license certificate is modified.

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9. The system of claim 8, in which the authorization enforcer is a constituent part of a license manager.

10. The system of claim 9, in which the authorization enforcer is configured as an exit routine of the license manager.

11. The system of claim 9, in which the authorization enforcer is configured as an internal intercept of the license manager.

12. The system of claim 9, in which the authorization enforcer is configured as a renamed module of the license manager.

13. The system of claim 1, in which the controller includes a tool that denies rights to a given user-id to create or modify license certificates, after the given user-id has attempted a pre-specified number of unauthorized modifications.

14. The system of claim 1, including a notification tool that notifies a pre-specified individual that changes to license certificates have been made.

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15. The system of claim 1, further including a reporter tool that reports on license certificate changes authorized by the authorization tool.

16. The system of claim 15, in which the reporter creates a report which contains information presented as a plurality of datafields, including at least four of the following parameters: products; vendors; date or period of time; user-id; authorized individuals; location; denials or approved changes to certificates; and approval on file in the GAT.

17. The system of claim 7, in which the classes comprise one or more of: software product type; sets of products; products identified by vendors; and products usable on specified computers.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein the authorization tool is manually operated by an individual included in the first list in response to specific requests for license certificate creation or modification requests.